

The Delta Plan

Presentation for DWR Delta Forum

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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Delta at a Crossroads

- Native fish populations crashing
- Systemic problems: ecosystem degradation, flood risk, water quality problems
- Unreliable Delta exports
- The stakes are high: tremendous risk to California's economy, environment, agriculture industry and Delta residents
- Decades of conflict have yielded little progress
- Many disparate voices call for a unified approach



2009 Delta Reform Act – A Legislative Milestone

-  Landmark changes to California water management:
 - *Established the coequal goals – putting the protection of the ecosystem on equal footing with water supplies*
 - *Required “reduced reliance on the Delta for future water supplies”*
 - *Included bills on statewide conservation, groundwater monitoring, water rights enforcement, bond and ...*
 - *Created 7-member independent Council with actual authority to achieve the coequal goals*

Meeting the coequal goals

- Builds on earlier efforts, including CALFED and Delta Vision
- Takes “Common sense approach” based on best available science
- Knits together the various regulations, policies and plans already in place, in progress, or planned



Meeting the coequal goals

1) Increase water supply reliability

- ✓ Better water management throughout California, including more conservation, diversification of water supplies
- ✓ Improved Delta conveyance & expansion of groundwater and surface storage



Meeting the coequal goals

2) Protect and enhance the ecosystem

- ✓ Update Delta water quality objectives
- ✓ Protect 6 high-priority restoration areas
- ✓ Recommendations to reduce ecosystem stressors



Meeting the coequal goals

3. Achieve in a manner that protects and enhances the values & unique, “evolving” characteristics of the Delta

- ✓ *Locate new urban development in urban and urbanizing areas*
- ✓ *Protect rural lands for agriculture*
- ✓ *Designate the Delta as a National Heritage Area*
- ✓ *Protect historic communities*



Reduce Risk





Flooding in Mossdale, 1997



The Delta is inherently flood-prone ...

- ✓ ***Improve flood preparedness and emergency response***
 - *Delta Flood Risk Management District*
- ✓ ***Reduce Delta exposure to flood risk***
 - *Enhance floodplains, create setback levees*
- ✓ ***Set state priorities for investment in Delta flood protection by 2015***

Next Steps

-  Nov. 30, 2012 – Jan. 14, 2013
 - *Public review and comment on supplement to PEIR and draft regulations*
-  Winter 2013
 - *Review comments to make any necessary revisions to final draft Delta Plan*
-  Spring 2013
 - *PEIR comments and responses will be published in the Final Program EIR*
 - *Council certifies EIR and adopts Delta Plan*
-  Summer 2013
 - *Delta Plan becomes regulation after completion of state rulemaking process*

Questions ...

www.deltacouncil.ca.gov



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